

# Building Foundations



Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities  
*Annual Report 2007*

The thing that lies at the foundation of positive change,  
the way I see it, is service to a fellow human being.

~Lech Walesa



## Who We Are...

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is established and funded under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act, along with Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. (Co-Ad), Idaho's protection and advocacy organization, and the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho.

## Our Mission

The Council promotes the capacity of people with developmental disabilities and their families to determine, access, and direct the services and/or supports they need to live the lives they choose, and to build the community's ability to support their choices.

# Building Foundations

Guided by a new five year strategic plan, the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities set out in 2007 to build foundations for the future. Members of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) teamed with the Division of Medicaid and began training self advocates and family members in the "My Voice My Choice" HCBS waiver self-directed option. As the waiver option expands beyond its initial three rollout locations, the jointly developed curriculum will be used by new trainers in all regions of the state.

SALN members elected a board of directors, and developed by-laws and articles of incorporation. Once they become an independent statewide self-advocacy organization they will begin creating self-advocacy chapters throughout the state. At that point, the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network plans to work with even more transition-aged students and adults with disabilities to learn self-advocacy skills and how to use self-advocacy to improve their own lives. The chapters will give members opportunities to work together to improve their home communities, and work at the state level.

"In Our Words", a 20 minute informative video on self-determination in Idaho was released along with television and radio public service announcements promoting the My Voice My Choice option. These announcements aired on several Idaho television and radio stations. Using footage from the 2005 "Be Determined" bus tour, self-advocates, parents, providers, elected officials, and others shared their views about self-determination.

Two other significant foundations had their beginnings in 2007. As directed by the Idaho Legislature, a stakeholder task force was formed and began developing a model for a family-directed HCBS waiver option based on self-direction for adults. Once in place, the option will offer parents of children with developmental disabilities opportunities for greater control and flexibility in directing services for their children. And, in an Idaho Falls city park, cement foundations were poured and Idaho's second universally accessible playground was erected by a team of community volunteers. Children with disabilities are now able to join friends and family in play opportunities that before were not available.



Foundations were indeed laid in 2007 and we expect to see many great things built upon them.

***Rick Betzer, Chairman 2007-08***  
***Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities***

# Council Outcomes

- **Community Supports:** People with developmental disabilities and their families have a meaningful say over participant-directed service systems management, including planning, implementation and evaluation.

A statewide system that delivers quality supports and services is available to individuals with developmental disabilities.

The needs of people with developmental disabilities are addressed in disaster and emergency preparedness plans and policies.

- **Education:** Students with disabilities receive an appropriate education in inclusive environments.  
Children experience seamless transitions between age/grade related developmental and educational programs.

- **Employment:** Individuals with developmental disabilities work in integrated settings where the majority of workers are individuals without disabilities.

- **Health:** Increase the resources available to Idahoans with developmental disabilities to access the medical and other health services they need.

- **Housing:** Multiple housing options are available to people with developmental disabilities.

- **Quality Assurance:** Self advocates and families are informed about the philosophy of self-determination.  
People with developmental disabilities demonstrate self-advocacy skills.

Abuse prevention and support services meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

- **Public Awareness:** The general public has greater awareness of people with developmental disabilities and the issues they face.

- **Transportation:** Communities provide accessible and affordable transportation to their citizens.

# Building Foundations in 2007

## Self-Directed Services

The Council continued its collaboration with Medicaid on the development of a self-directed service option for adults with developmental disabilities called "My Voice My Choice." Staff provided input into developing quality assurance standards and rules and created training materials for individuals who choose to self-direct their services. Members of The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) and Council staff worked together to develop and carry out a train-the-trainer curriculum. Regional Medicaid staff and SALN teams worked as partners to provide regional training for individuals choosing to self-direct their Medicaid services. By the end of the year 24 self-directed option participants, 8 family members, and 4 support brokers had attended the training.

## Spreading the Self-Determination Message



The Council led the effort to tell Idahoans about self-determination and the "My Voice My Choice" option. Footage from the 2005 "Be Determined" Bus Tour was used to develop a 25-minute video, featuring self-advocates, family members and others. The video was distributed to Health and Welfare regional offices and used as part of a presentation on public access television with a panel of SALN members. The Council also produced two 30-second public service announcements (1 for television and 1 for radio), and purchased \$15,000 of airtime in 3 Idaho markets. The spots aired 1,148 times and generated 27 responses to Idaho's 211 CareLine.

# Building Foundations



## Self-Advocacy Movement

The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) made great progress to transition from a Council project to an independent statewide self-advocacy organization. SALN members developed and approved by-laws, elected officers and board members, prepared articles of incorporation, and hosted 2 Board meetings. The final step to become a non-profit organization was to submit an application to the Office of the Secretary of

State. Part of the process to develop the organization is to establish regional chapters that will provide self-advocates regional and state level representation.

SALN continued to provide educational presentations on self-advocacy, self-determination, and community integration. SALN members also attended a regional Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) meeting in Utah, where SALN was recognized as a resource to provide technical assistance to other states that want to build a ground-up, statewide self-advocacy organization.

SALN has been a valuable resource in providing self-advocate input on a variety of public policy issues, especially employment, guardianship and abuse and neglect.

From this collaboration, it is anticipated that Idaho will have a 4th Developmental Disability Network partner, The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network, led and directed by self-advocates.





## Family-Directed Services

With legislative direction, the Council and the Department of Health and Welfare formed a taskforce of stakeholders to design and develop a family-directed service system for families of children with developmental disabilities. The program will be flexible and family directed, based on needs, cost effective, and aligned with the self-directed model for adults, already in place.

## Universally Accessible Playground # 2

Idaho's second universally accessible playground opened in a public park in Idaho Falls in September. The project, "Equal Access Playground" was supported by the Council through a \$10,000 grant and like "Adventure Island Playground" in Meridian, it was built by a team of community volunteers. Information and pictures of the project are on the website: [www.equalaccessplayground.org](http://www.equalaccessplayground.org).



*Treasure Valley Resource Fair at Adventure Island Playground in Meridian*

# 2007 Accomplishments

## Abuse/Neglect Recognition and Prevention Awareness

Council staff researched curricula for training adults with developmental disabilities about strategies to recognize and avoid becoming victims of abuse. Staff also conducted a statewide survey and interviews of 103 individuals with developmental disabilities. Of those interviewed, 74 people indicated that they had experienced some form of abuse in their lifetime. A literature review was conducted to determine why people with developmental disabilities under report being victims of abuse. The information has been compiled and will be used to increase public awareness.

## Person Centered Planning Grant

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid awarded a three-year, \$499,435 Person Centered Planning (PCP) Implementation Grant to the Council to provide PCP technical assistance and resources to individuals, families and groups across Idaho. The Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho, plus other organizations partnered with the Council in submitting the successful application. Funds will be used to recruit and train person-centered planning facilitators across the state. The grant will also provide funds to build resources and information which will be available through independent living centers, Family Support 360 centers and on the web. A key focus of the grant is on unpaid informal supports that are critical to anyone with a disability living a successful life in the community.



## Partners in Policymaking

Following 10 years of providing Partners in Policymaking, the Council reviewed its plans for the program. Fifty-eight of the 105 graduates of Idaho's



Partners in Policymaking sent their input on a survey about the future of the program. The responses were combined with information from 4 focus groups and put together in a report to the Council - "Charting a Course for the Idaho Partners in Policymaking Program 2007 and Beyond." An Advanced Partners Summit is planned for June 2008.

## Guardianship

The Consumer Leadership Caucus (self-advocate Council members) decided to learn about guardianship for adults with developmental disabilities and to develop recommendations to the Council for a position statement on the topic of guardianship. The committee has learned about state statutes on guardianships, the legal process for getting guardianships, and Health & Welfare's role with the regional guardianship evaluation committees. Position statements from other states and national organizations were also reviewed as well as alternatives to guardianship. The Caucus will present its recommended statement to the Council in 2008.



Council staff prepared and made presentations on guardianship alternatives to parents of children with developmental disabilities, educators, service professionals, and self-advocates.

## Direct Support Professionals Training

The Council has supported the training of direct care staff by helping plan and implement and give \$5,000 in funds to the annual Community Partnerships conference. This year the conference provided training to over 600 providers, self-advocates, family members and agency representatives. The Council also continued as a partner in Idaho's pilot of

the College of Direct Support which has provided access to on-line training for 525 direct care staff.

## APSE

A chapter organizing committee was formed to work on the development of an Idaho APSE (formerly Association for Persons in Supported Employment) Chapter. The Council provided funding and staff support to coordinate efforts with the national APSE office. A board of directors was formed and a plan was adopted that includes regional training, a state conference and information sharing to increase membership numbers. The final step to be recognized as an official state chapter was to submit an application to the national office.

## Employment Resources for Idahoans with Disabilities

Council staff partnered with the Idaho Americans with Disabilities Act Task Force and 15 other state and employment/disability related agencies to work on removing employment barriers for people with disabilities. Employment Resources for Idahoans with Disabilities (ERID) is partially funded by a grant from the regional Disability Business and Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) in Seattle. The grant requires that ERID educate employers about the ADA and about hiring people with disabilities. Another way to address barriers is to create Business Leadership Network (BLN) chapters made up of business members that promote and practice the employment of people with disabilities.

## Determined to Vote

In collaboration with Co-Ad, the Council wrapped up its work on Determined to Vote with the 2006 general election. Outcomes for two years included 383 people trained, 213 voting for the first time, and 39 using the



AutoMark, a ballot marking device. With 7 regional teams of trainers in place, the Council will again seek to contract with the Office of the Secretary of State to provide training in Idaho precincts.

## National Disability Mentoring Day

For the fifth consecutive year, the Council provided funding to support high school students and young adults to work at their dream jobs for one day through the National Disability Mentoring Day Program. A total of 37 employers in the Eastern Idaho cities of Idaho Falls and Rigby provided on the job mentoring to 34 participants.

## Tools for Life Conference

Council funds supported the 2007 Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Assistive Technology Fair where 454 participants including 130 students, received information on transition planning, housing, employment, self-advocacy, self-determination, college preparation, and adult services. The event was held in Boise but attendance came from high schools throughout the state.

## Secondary Transition Planning

As part of the Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition, Council staff joined the Idaho team that attended the National Secondary Transition Planning Institute. Working with team members from various state agencies and school districts, the team drafted a state interagency



plan to support the successful transition of high school students with disabilities. As part of an ongoing process the team will attend the 2008 institute to continue to develop and update the Idaho plan.

## Public Awareness

The Council educated the public about its activities in 2007 through three issues of the Council Visions and Values newsletter, a redesigned and more user-friendly website, a 2006 Annual Report, and reprinting our Council brochure and People First Language brochure (both in English and Spanish).

A 25-minute video and radio and television public service announcements were produced and aired; these were used to provide information about self-determination and help recruit people to participate in the self-directed services option. The Council provided planning and financial support to the biennial Independent Living Conference. Twelve individuals were assisted to attend conferences through Council stipends and the Council worked in partnership with others to pass legislation creating October as Disability History Month in Idaho.

## Treasure Valley Resource Fair

More than 300 families of children with disabilities participated in the second annual Treasure Valley Resource Fair held June 23rd. The Council was one of two primary sponsors with a \$1,500 grant to the event held at Adventure Island Playground, Idaho's first universally accessible playground. Families were introduced to more than 50 providers of specialized services available throughout the valley. A photo album of the event can be found on the playground website at: [www.adventureislandplayground.org](http://www.adventureislandplayground.org).



## Disaster Preparedness

Council staff provided input into the development of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security's Disaster Operations Plan Annex. The addendum

to the state plan served as a guide to county disaster planners to include people with disabilities in their local operations plans. Other involvement included: 1) a presentation to the state volunteer first-responders organization; b) articles about disaster preparedness in the Council newsletter; and 3) adapting a curriculum to address the needs of people with disabilities during disasters and co-training county emergency workers .

## Home Of Your Own

A \$5,000 grant was again provided to Opening Doors, Inc. to support the organization's work to help people with disabilities buy affordable housing. The organization received grants, awards and monies from other sources totaling \$50,000. Four home loans for individuals or families with members with developmental disabilities were completed during the year.

## National Recognition

Council chairman Rick Betzer and his wife Tina received national recognition as "Angels in Adoption" from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. The Betzers were nominated for the award by Idaho Senator Mike Crapo. The program honors individuals who have enriched the lives of foster children and children awaiting adoption. Rick and Tina are parents to 11 adopted children with disabilities.



## **Boards, Councils & Special Committees on which the Council is represented:**

**Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities**

**Interagency Workgroup on Public Transportation**

**Family Directed Services Task Force**

**Adventure Island Playground Planning Committee**

**Interagency Coordinating Council for Secondary Transition**

**Idaho Community Care Council**

**Co-Ad Advisory Board**

**Family Support Policy Council**

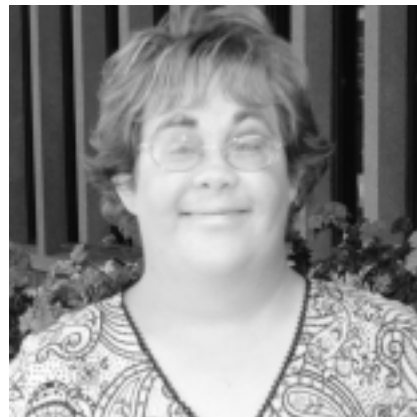
**Center on Disabilities and Human Development Consumer Council**

**Idaho Training Cooperative, Intensive Behavioral Intervention Committee**

**Idaho State School and Hospital Advisory Board**

**Opening Doors, Inc.**

**St. Alphonsus Children's Classic Race Exec. Cmte.**





# Federal FY 2007 Council Members

**Chair** Rick Betzer, Parent

**Vice Chair** James Steed, Self-Advocate

**Consumer Representative** Kristyn Herbert, Self-Advocate

## Self-Advocates

Shiloh Blackburn  
Mary Johnson  
Mike Smith  
Theresa Wilding

## Parents

Debbie DePaola  
Bob Jackson  
Corrine Johnson  
Ame Linch  
Elizabeth Riccardi

## Guardian

Dona Butler

## Agency/Organizational Members

Corey Barnard	Independence Network, Inc.
Jim Baugh	Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.
Mary Bostick	State Department of Education
Tanya Brindle	Vocational Rehabilitation
Leslie Clement	IDHW, Division of Medicaid
Donna Denney	Commission on Aging
Paige Fincher	IDHW, Maternal & Child Health
Julie Fodor	Center on Disability and Human Development, U of I
Kim Kane	United Cerebral Palsy of Idaho



## FY 2007 Staff

Marilyn Sword, Executive Director  
Christine Pisani, Program Specialist  
Ron Enright, Program Specialist  
Tracy Warren, Program Specialist

Pam Stanley/Amanda Holloway,  
Administrative Assistant 2  
Penny Thorpe/Samantha Wallace,  
Office Specialist 2

All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing citizens of their communities.

# Vision

# Values

Independence ♦ Respect ♦ Participation  
Integration ♦ Choice ♦ Partnership ♦ Responsibility  
Quality of Life ♦ Inclusion ♦ Community ♦ Equality



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